The Fraternitie of Vacabondes.

As well of ruffling Vacabondes, as of [illegible]ggerly:
of Women, as of Men: of Gyrles, as of Boyes:
with their proper names and qualities.
With a description also of the craftie
companie of Cosoners and Shifters.

Whereunto also is adioyned the xxv. Orders
of Knaues, otherwise called a Quarterne
of Knaues. Confirmed for euer by
COCKE LORELL.

The Vpright man speaketh.

Our Brotherhood of Vacabondes,
If you would know where they dwell:
In Graues-end Barge, which seldome stondes,
This Story will shew right well.

Cocke Lorell answereth.

Some orders of our Knaues also,
In that Barge shall ye finde:
For nowhere shall yee walke I trow,
But ye shall see their kinde.

Imprinted at London by W. White
dwelling in Cow-lane
1603.

The Fraternitie of Vacabondes.

As well of rufling Vacabondes, as of beggerly: of Women, as of Men: of Gyrles, as of Boyes: with their proper names and qualities.

With a deſcription alſo of the craftie *companie of Coſoners and Shifters.*

Whereunto alſo is adioyned the xxv. Orders of Knaues, otherwiſe called a Quarterne of Knaues. Confirmed for euer by COCKE LORELL.

The Vpright man ſpeaketh.

Our Brotherhood of Vacabondes,
If you would know where they dwell:
In Graues-end Barge, which ſeldome ſtondes,
This Story will ſhew right well.

Cocke Lorell anſwereth.

Some orders of my Knaues alſo,
In that Barge ſhall ye finde:
For nowhere ſhall yee walke I tro,
But ye ſhall ſee their kinde.

Imprinted at London by W. White dwelling in Cow-lane
1603.

The Printer to the Reader.

THis brotherhood of Vacabondes,
To shew that there be such in deede:
Both Iustices and men of Landes,
Can testifie, if it be neede.
For at a Sessions as they sate:
Was by chaunce a Vacabond gate:

Who promis'de if they would him spare,
And keepe his name from knowledge then:
He would as strange a thing declare,
As ere they knew since they were men:
But if my fellowes should know (sayd hee)
That thus I did, they would kill mee.

They graunting him then his requeſt,
He did declare as there he stood,
Both names and states of moſt and leaſt,
Of this their Vacabonds brotherhood.
Which at the requeſt of a Worshipfull man,
I haue ſet forth as well as I can.

The Fraternitie of Vacabondes, both ruffling and beggerly; Men and Women, Boyes and Gyrles: with *their proper names and qualities.*

An Abraham man.

AN Abraham man is he that walketh bare armed, and bare legged, and fayneth him selfe madde, and carieth a packe of Wooll, or a Sycke with Bacon on it, or such like toy: and nameth himselfe Poore Tom.

A Ruffeler.

A Ruffeler, goeth with a weapon to seeke seruice, saying, hee hath been a Seruitour in the Warres, and beggeth for his relefe: But his chiefest trade is to robbe poore wayfaring men, and market women.

A Prigman.

A Prigman goeth with a Sticke in his hand like an idle person. His propertie is to steale Cloathes off the hedge, which they call Storing of the Rogueman: or els filch Poultrie, carying them to the Alehouse, which they call the Bowsing Inne, and there sit playing at Cardes and Dice, till that is spent which they haue so filched.

A Whipiacke.

A Whipiacke is one, that by coloure of a counterfaite Lisence (which they call a Gybe, and the Scales they call Iarckes) doth vse to begge like a Mariner, But his chiefest trade is to robbe Boothes in a Faire, or to pilfer ware from Staules: which they call Heauing of the Booth.

A Frater.

A Frater, goeth with such a like Lisence, to begge for some Spittlehouse or Hospitall. Their pray is commonly vpon poore Women as they go and come to the Markets.

A Quire Bird.

A Quire Bird, is one that came lately out of Pylon, and goeth to seeke seruice. He is commonly a dealer of Horses, which they tearme a Priggar of Paultries.

An Vpright man.

An Vpright man, is one that goeth with the Truncheon of a Staffe (which Staffe, they call a Filchman. This man is of so much authoritie, that meeting with any of his profession, he may cal them to accompt, & commaund a share of gaine vnto himselfe, of al that they haue gotten by their trade in one month. And if he no them wrong, they haue no remedy against him, no though he beate them, as he vseth commonly to doe. He may also commaund any of their women (which they call Doxies) to serue his turne. He hath ye chiefe place at any Market walke, & other assemblies, & is not of any to be controuled.

A Curtall.

A Curtall, is much like to the Vpright man, but his authoritie is not fully so great. He vseth commonly to go with a short Cloake, like to Gray Friers, and his Woman with him in like liuery, which he calleth his Altham, if she be his Wife: and if she be his Harlot, she is called his Doxie.

A Palliard.

A Palliard, is he that goeth in a patcher Cloake, and his Doxie goeth in like apparell.

An Irish-toyle.

An Irish-toyle, is he that carieth his Ware in his Mallet: as Laces, Pinnes, Paynres, and such like. He vseth to shew no Wares vntill he haue his Almes. And if the good man and wife be not in the way, he procureth of the children or seruantes a fleece of Wooll, or the worth of, xii. d. of some other thing, for a pennyworth of his Wares.

A Iacke-man.

A Iacke-man, is he that can write and read, and sometime speake latin. He vseth to make counterfaite Licences, which they call Gybes, and sets too Seales, in their language called Iarkes.

A Swig-

A Swigman.

A Swigman, goeth with a Pedlers packe.

A Washman.

A Washman is called a Pilliard, but not of the right making. He vseth to lie in the high way with lame or sore legges or armes, and begge. These men (the right Pilliard) will often times spoyle, but they dare not complaine. They be bitten with Spickwortes, and sometime with Rats-bane.

A Tinkard.

A Tinkard, leaueth his Bag a sweating at the Alehouse, which they tearme their Bowsing Iane, and in the meane season goeth abrode a begging.

A Wilde Rogue.

A Wilde Rogue, is he that hath no abyding place, but by his colour of going abrode to begge, is commonly to seeke some Kinsman of his: and all that be of his corporation, be properly called Rogues.

A Kitchen Co.

A Kitchen Co, is called an idle runnagate Boy.

A Kitchen Mortes.

A Kitchen Mortes, is a Gyrle: she is brought at her full age to the Vpright man to be broken: and so she is called a Doxie, vntill she come to the honour of an Altham.

Doxies.

Note especially, all which go abrode working Laces and Shirt-strynges, they name them Doxies.

A Patriarke Co.

A Patriarke Co, doth make Partages, and that is vntill death depart the maried folke, which is after this sort: When they come to a dead Horse, or any dead Catell, then they shake hands, and so depart euery one of them a seuerall way.

The companie of Cosoners and Shifters.

A Curtesie man.

A Curtesie man, is one that walketh about the backe lanes in London in the day time, and some time in the broade streetes in the night season: and when he meeteth some handsome young man cleanly apparelled, or some other honest Citizen, he maketh humble salutations, and low curtesie, and sheweth him that he hath a worde or two to speake with his Maistership. This child can behaue himselfe manerly, for he will desire him that he talketh withall, to take the vpper hand, and shew him much reuerence, and at last (like his familiar acquaintance) will put on his Cappe, and walke syde by syde, and talke on this fashion. Oh Sir, you seeme to be a Man, and one that fauoureth Men, and therefore I am the more bolder to breake my minde vnto your good Maisterships. Thus it is Sir, there are a certaine of vs (though I say it, both tall and handsome men of our handes) which haue come lately from the Warres, and (as God knoweth) haue nothing to take to, being both maisterlesse and monpleise, and knowing no way whereby to earne a penny. And further, whereas we haue been wealthely brought vp: and we also haue been had in good estimation, we are ashamed now to declare our miserie, and to fall a crauing as common Beggers: and as for to steale and robbe (God is our record) it striketh vs to the hart, to thinke of such a mischiefe, that euer any handsome man should fall into such a danger, for this worldly trashe: Which if we had to suffize our want and necessitie, we should neuer seeke thus shamefully to craue of such good pittifull men as you seeme to be, neither yet so dangerously to hazard our liues for so vile a thing: Therefore good Sir, as you seeme to be a handsome man your selfe, and also such a one as

pitieth

pitieth the miserable case of handsome men, as now your eyes and countenaunce sheweth to haue some pittie vpon this my miserable complaint: So in Gods cause I require your Maisterships, and in the behalfe of my poore afflicted fellowes, which though heere in sight they cry not with me to you, yet whersoeuer they be, I am sure they cry vnto God, to moone the hartes of some good men to shew forth their liberalitie in this behalfe: All which, and I with them, craue now the same request at your good Maisterships hand. With these, or such like wordes, he frameth his talke. Now if the partie (which he thus talketh withall) proffereth him a penny, or two pence, he taketh it, but very scornefully, and at last speaketh on this sort. Well Sir, your good will is not to be refused: But yet you shall vnderstand (good sir) that this is nothing for them, for whom I do thus shamefully entreate. Alas sir, it is not a Groate or twelue pence I speake for, being such a company of Seruitours as we haue been: yet neuertheless, God forbid I should not receiue your gentle offer at this time, hoping hereafter, through your good motions to some such like good Gentlemen as you be, that I, or some of my fellowes in my place, shall finde the more liberalitie.

These kind of idle Vacabondes will go commonly well apparelled, without any weapon: and in place where they meete together, as at their Hostices, or other places, they will beare the port of right good Gentlemen, & some are the more trusted: but commonly they pay them with stealing a paire of Sheetes, or Couerlet, and so take their farewell earely in the morning, before the Maister or Dame be stirring.

A Cheatour, or Fingerer.

THese commonly be such kind of idle Vacabondes as scarcely a man shall discerne, they goe so gorgeously, sometime with waighting men, and sometime without. Their trade is to walke in such places, where as Gentlemen & other worshipfull Citizens do resort: as at Paules,

or

or at Christes Hospitall, and sometime at the Royal exchange. These haue very many acquaintaunces, yea, and for the most part will acquaint themselues with euery man, and faigne a societie in one place or other: But chiefly they will seeke their acquaintance of such (which they haue learned by diligent enquiring where they resort) as haue receiued some portion of mony of their friends, as young Gentlemen which are sent to London to study the Lawes, or els some young Marchant man, or other kinde of Occupier, whose friendes hath geuen them a flocke of mony to occupy withall. When they haue thus found out such a pray, they will find the meanes by their familiarity, as very courteously to bid him to breakfast at one place or other, where they are best acquainted, and closely among themselues will appoint one of their Fraternity, which they call a Fingerer, an old beaten child not onely in such deceites, but also such a one as by his age is painted out with gray heares, winkled face, crooked backe, and most commonly lame, as it might seeme with age, yea, and such a one as in shew, an honest man, shall weare a homely Cloake, and Hat scarce worth. vi. d. This nimble fingred knight, (being appoynted to this place) commeth in as one not knowen of these Cheatours, but as vnwares shall sit downe at the ende of the table where they sit, and call for his penny pot of Wine, or a pint of Ale, as the place serueth. Thus sitting as it were alone, mumbling on a crust, or some such thing, these other youngsters will finde some kind of merry talke with him: some times questioning where he dwelleth, and some times enquiring what trade he vseth: which commonly he telleth them he vseth Husbandry. And talking thus merrely, at last they aske him, How sayest thou Father, wilt thou play for thy breakfast with one of vs, that we may haue some pastime as we sit? This old Karle making it strange at the first, saith. My maisters, Ich am an olde man, and halfe blind, and can skill of very few Games, yet for that you seeme to be such good Gentlemen, as to profer to play for that of which you

had

had no part, but only I my selfe, & therefore of right I ch am worthy to pay for it. I shall with all my hart fulfill your request. And so falleth to play, sometime at Cardes, and sometime at Dice: Which though his counterfaite simplicitie in the play, sometimes ouer counteth himselfe, or playeth sometimes against his will, so as he would not, and then counterfaiteth to be angrie, and falleth to swearing: and so loosing that, proffereth to play for a shilling or two. The other thereat hauing good sport, seemeth to mocke him, falleth againe to play, and so by their leagerdemaine, and counterfaiting, winneth each of them a shilling or twaine, and at last whispereth the young man in the eare to play with him also, that each one might haue a fling at him. This young man for company falleth againe to play also with the sayd Fingerer, and winneth as the other did: which when he had lost a noble or. vi. s. maketh as though he had lost al his mony, and falleth a intreating for part thereof againe to bring him home, which the other knowing his minde & intent, floutely denieth and iesteth and scoffeth at him. This Fingerer seeming then to be in a rage, desireth them as they are true gentlemen, to tarry till he fetcheth more store of money, or els to appoint some place where they may meete. They seeming greedy hereof, promiseth faithfully, and clappeth handes to meete. They thus tickling the young man in the eare, willeth him to make as much money as he can, and they will make as much as they can, and consent as though they will play booty against him. But in the ende they so vse the matter, that both the young man feeleth his part, and as it seemeth to him, they feeling theirs also, maketh as though they would fall together by the eares with this Fingerer, which by one wyle or other at last conueyeth him selfe away, and they as it were raging lyke mad bedlams, one runneth one way, an other an other way, leauing the foler in deede all alone. Thus these Cheatours at their accustomed hostices meete closely together, and there deuide eth one his part of this their vile spoyle. Of this fra-

ternity there be that be called Helpers, which cõmonly haunt Tauerns or Alehouses, & commeth in as men not acquainted with none in the company, but spying them at any game, will bid them God speede, and God be at their game, and will so place him selfe, that he will shew his fellow by signes and tokens, without speech commonly, but sometime with farre fetched wordes, what Cardes he hath in his hand, and how he may play against him. And those betweene them both getteth Money out of the others Purse.

A Ring faller.

A Ring-faller, is he that getteth faire Copper Rings, some made like Signets, and some after other fashions, very faire gylded, and walketh vp and downe the streetes, till he spyeth some man of the Country, or some other simple body whom he thinketh he may deceiue, and so goeth a litle before him or them, and letteth fall one of these Ringes: which when the party that commeth after spyeth and taketh it vp, he hauing an eye backward, crieth halfe part: the party that taketh it vp, thinking it to be of great value, proffereth him some money for his part, which he not fully benyeth, but willeth him to come into some Alehouse or Tauerne, and there they will common vpon the matter. Which when they come in, and are set in some solitary place (as commonly they call for such a place) there he desireth the partie that found the Ring to shew it him. When he seeth it, he falleth a entreating the party that found it, & desireth him to take money for his part, and telleth him, that if euer he may do him any friendship hereafter he shall commaund him: for he maketh as though he were very desirous to haue it. The simple man seeing him so importune vpon it, thinking the ring to be of great nature, and so is the more lother to part from it. At last this Ring-faller asketh him what he will giue him for his part: for saith he

he, seeing you will not let me haue the Ring, alow me my part, and take you the Ring. The other asketh what he counteth the Ring to be worth? He answereth, v. or. vi. pound. No sayth he, it is not so much worth. Well (sayth this Ring-faller) let me haue it, and I will alow you. xl. s. for your part. The other party standing in a wonder, and looking on the Ring, asketh if he will giue the money out of hand. The other answereth, he hath not so much ready money about him, but he will go fetch so much for him, if he will go with him. The other that found the Ring, thinking he meaneth truely, beginneth to proffer him. xx. s. for his part, sometimes more, or lesser which he very seornefully refuseth at the first, and still entreateth that he might haue the Ring: which maketh the other more louder of it, and desireth him to take the money for his part, and so proffereth him money. This Ring-faller seeing the money, maketh it very strange, and first questioneth with him where he dwelleth? and asketh him what is his name? and telleth him that he seemeth to be an honest man, and therefore he will doe somewhat for friendships sake, hoping to haue as friendly a pleasure at his hand hereafter: and so prefereth him for. x. s. more he should haue the Ring. At last with entreatie on both partes, he giueth the Ring-faller the money, and so departeth, thinking he hath gotten a very great Jewel. These kinde of deceyuing Vacabondes, haue other practises with their Rinnges, as sometimes to come to buy Mares of mens Prentises, and sometimes of their Maisters: and when he hath agreed of the price, he sayth he hath not so much money about him, but pulleth off one of these Rinnges off from his fingers, and proffereth to leaue it in pawne, till his Maister or his friendes hath seene it: promysing to bring the Money, the seller thinking he meaneth truely, letteth him goe, and neuer seeth him after, till perhappes at Tyburne, or at such like place. There is an other kinde of these Ring choppers, which commonly carry about them a faire Golde Ring in deede, and these haue other coun-

terfayte Ringes made so like this Gold Ring, that ye shalnot perceiue the contrary, till it be brought to the Touch-stone. This child will come to borrow Money of the right gold Ring, the partie mistrusting the Ring not to be good, goeth to the Goldsmith with the party that hath the Ring, and tryeth it whether it be good Gold, and also waigheth it to know how much it is worth. The Goldsmith tryeth it to be good Gold, and also to haue his full waight like Gold, and warranteth the partie which shall lende the Money, that the Ring is worth so much mony, according to the waight. This Pounckster comming home with the party which shall lende the money, and hauing the Gold ring againe, putteth vp the Gold ring, and pulleth out a counterfayte Ring very like the same, and so deliuereth it to the party which lendeth the Money, they thinking it to be the same which they tryed, and so deliuereth the Money, or sometimes Wares: and thus vilely be deceiued.

The. xxv. Orders of Knaues, otherwise called a Quarterne of Knaues: confirmed for euer by *Cocke Lorell*.

1 Troll and Troll by.

TRoll and Troll by, is hee that setteth naught by no man, nor no man by him. This is he that would beare rule in a place, and hath none authoritie nor thanke: and at last is thrust out of the doore like a Knaue.

2 Troll with.

Troll with, is he that no man shall know the Semaunt from

from the Maister. This Knaue with his Cappe on his head like Capon harpy, will sit downe by his Maister, or els go cheeke by cheeke with him in the streete.

3 Troll hazard of trace.

Troll hazard of trace, is he that goeth behinde his Maister as far as he may see him. Such knaues commonly vse to buy Spicecakes, Apples, or other trifles, and doo eate them as they go in the streetes lyke vacabond Boyes.

4 Troll hazard of tritrace.

Troll hazard of tritrace, is he that goeth gaping after his Maister, looking to and fro till he haue lost him. This knaue goeth gazing about like a foole at euery toy, and then seeketh in euery house lyke a Maisterles dog, and when his Maister needeth him, he is to seeke.

5 Chafe Litter.

Chafe Litter, is he that will plucke vp the Fetherbed or Matrice, and pisse in the bedstraw, and will neuer rise vncalled. This knaue berayeth many times in the corners of his Maisters chamber, or other places inconuenient, and maketh cleane his shoes with the couerlet or curtaines.

6 Obloquium.

Obloquium, is he that will take a tale out of his Maisters mouth and tell it him selfe. He of right may be called a malapart knaue.

7 Rince Pitcher.

Rince Pitcher, is he that will drinke out his thrift at the ale or wine, and be oft times dronke. This is a licorice knaue that will swill his Maisters drinke, and bybe his meate that is kept for him.

8 Ieffery Gods Fo.

Ieffery Gods Fo, is he that will sweare and maintaine othes. This is such a lying Knaue, that none will beleeue him: for the more he sweareth, the lesse he is to be beleeued.

9 Nicholl Hartles.

¶ Nicholl Hartles, is he, that when he ſhould do ought for his Maiſter, his hart faileth him. This is a Truant Knaue, that faigneth him ſelfe ſicke when he ſhould worke.

10 Simon ſoone agone.

Simon ſoone agone, is he, that when his Maiſter hath any thing to do, he will hide him ſelfe out of the way. This is a loytring Knaue, that will hide him in a corner and ſleepe, or els run away.

11 Greene Winchard.

Greene Winchard, is he, that when his Hoſe is broken and hange out at his ſhooes, he will put them into his ſhooes againe with a ſticke: but he will not amende them. This is a ſlouthful knaue, that had leauer go like a beggar, then cleanly.

12 Proctour.

Proctour, is he, that will tarry long, and bring a lie, when his Maiſter ſendeth him on his errande. This is a ſlibber gibber Knaue, that doth fayne tales.

13 Commitour of Tidinges.

Commitour of Tidinges, is he, that is ready to bring his Maiſter Nouelties and tydinges, whether they be true or falſe. This is a Tale-bearing Knaue, that will report words ſpoken in his Maiſters preſence.

14 Gyle Hather.

Gyle Hather, is he, that will ſtand by his Maiſter when he is at dinner, and bid him beware that he eate no raw meate, becauſe he would eate it himſelfe. This is a Pick-thanke Knaue, that would make his Maiſter beleeue that the Cow is wood.

15 Bawde Phiſicke.

Bawde Phiſicke, is he that is a Cooke, when his Maiſters meate is euill dreſſed, and he challenging him therefore, he will ſay he will eate the raweſt morſell thereof himſelfe. This is a ſauſie Knaue, that will contrary his Maiſter alway.

16 Mounch

16 Mounch preſent.

Maunch preſent, is he that is a great Gentleman: for when his Maiſter ſendeth him with a preſent, he will take a taſte thereof by the way. This is a bold Knaue, that ſometime will eate the beſt, and leaue the worſt for his Maiſter.

17 Cole Prophet.

Cole Prophet, is he, that when his Maiſter ſendeth him on his errand, he will tell his anſwere thereof to his Maiſter before he depart from him. This Tittinell Knaue commonly maketh the worſt of the beſt betweene his Maiſter and his friende.

18 Curry fauell.

Curry fauell, is he, that will lie in his bed, and curry the bed boordes in which he lyeth, in ſtead of his Horſe. This ſlouthfull Knaue will buskell and ſcratch when he is called in the morning, for any haſte.

19 Ding thrift.

Ding thrift, is he, that will make his Maiſters Horſe eate Pies and ribbes of Beefe, and drinke Ale and Wine. Such falſe Knaues oft times, will ſell their Maiſters meate to their owne profite.

20 Eſen Droppers.

Eſen Droppers, be they, that ſtand vnder mens walles or windowes, or in any other place, to heare the ſecretes of a mans houſe. Theſe mildeeming Knaues will ſtand in corners to heare if they be euill ſpoken of, or maight a ſhrewde turne.

21 Choplogike.

Choplogike, is he, that when his Maiſter rebuketh him for his fault, he will giue him twentie wordes for one, els bid the Diuels Pater-noſter in ſilence. This proude prating Knaue will maintaine his naughtines, when he is rebuked for them.

22 Vnthrift.

Vnthrift, is he that will not put his wearing cloathes to washing, nor blacke his owne Shoes, nor amende his owne wearing cloathes. This wretchles Knaue will alway be lowsie: and say that he hath no more shift of cloathes, and slaunder his Maister.

23 Vngrations.

Vngracious, is he that by his owne will, will heare no maner of seruice, without he be compelled thereunto by his Rulers. This Knaue will sit at the Alehouse drinking or playing at Dice, or at other games at seruice time.

24 Nunquam.

Nunquam, is he that when his Maister sendeth him an his errande, he will not come againe in an houre or two, where he might haue done it in halfe an houre, or lesse. This Knaue will goe about his owne errand or pastime, and sayth, he can not speede at the first.

25 Ingratus.

Ingratus, is he, that when one doth all that he can for him, he will scant giue him a good report for his labour. This Knaue is so ingrate or vnkinde, that he considereth not his friende from his foe, and will quit euill for good: and being put most in trust, will soonest deceiue his Maister.

FINIS.